

CLAIMS

1. A method of retrieval of stored images stored with metadata for at least some of the
5 stored images, the metadata comprising at least one entry specifying
 - (a) a part of the respective image;
 - (b) another stored image; and
 - (c) a measure of the degree of similarity between the specified part and the
10 specified other stored image; the method comprising
 - i. displaying one or more images;
 - ii. receiving input from a user indicative of part of the displayed images;
 - iii. determining measures of interest for each of a plurality of non-displayed stored
15 images specified by the metadata for the displayed image(s), as a function of the
similarity measure(s) and the relationship between the user input and the part
specified;
 - iv. selecting from those non-displayed stored images, on the basis of the determined
measures, further images for display.
2. A method according to Claim 1 in which the receiving of input from a user is
20 performed by means operable to observe movement of the user's eye.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 in which the user input identifies image locations
and associated attention durations, and each measure of interest is the sum of individual
measures for each identified location that is within a predetermined distance of a specified part,
25 each said individual measure being a function of the attention duration that is associated with
the identified location and the similarity measure that is associated with the specified part.
4. A method according to claim 3 in which each individual measure is the product of the
duration and the similarity measure.
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5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims in which the specified parts of
the images are points within the images.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the specified parts of the
35 images are regions thereof.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims in which steps (ii) to (iv) are repeated at least once.

- 5 8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims further including the initial steps of:
receiving one or more external images;
generating said metadata in respect of the external image(s); and
displaying the external image(s).

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